

ILLEGIB

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IB - 331/63  
21 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Manufacturing and Services Division, ORR

25X1A

ATTENTION : [REDACTED] MS/D

THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS

FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT : Sian Arsenals

REFERENCES : (1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR3-80,522/63 (Revision).  
(2) CIA/PID Project No. C 1415-63

25X1D

1. This memorandum is in response to the referenced requirement which asks for analysis of arsenals at Sian including production activity and expansion since [REDACTED]

2. The enclosed information provides comparative coverage of five installations in Sian and its environs from [REDACTED] Annotated enlargements and comparative coverage of each facility illustrates the expansion over the four year period. In addition, each installation is discussed individually in the following text. This memorandum is based on analysis of the following coverage: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] respectively.

3. The arsenals at Sian roughly encircle the city. These plants have been outlined on a reference map (see enclosure CIA/PID/IB-P-735/63) and given a number designation which corresponds to the accompanying photo enlargements and descriptions.

4. Area 1, Explosives Plant is located south of Hu-hsian, approximately twenty-one nautical miles southwest of Sian. It is the largest plant of the complex and has undergone the greatest expansion [REDACTED]

25X1A

The processing area is rectangular with at least four rail lines entering the west end. The facilities are still under construction with many pipe ditches still open, overhead pipeline supports complete but with no pipes present and some buildings under construction. From analysis it appears that a few buildings are still to be added. At the current stage of construction it is clear that the flow of materials will be from the west to the east.

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There will be a probable acid section, primary processing section, secondary processing section, woodworking and fabrication section and other unidentified sections. A test area containing three large and two smaller test ranges is located adjacent to the production area and a well secured explosives storage area, containing four large and one small revetted building, is located southeast of the production area.

The exact type of explosive to be manufactured can not be determined at the present time; however, the presence of the test ranges indicates that a propellant such as nitrocellulose is probably to be produced.

25X1D

Considerable expansion was observed as forty-two new buildings were added between [REDACTED] of which three were started

25X1D

[REDACTED] It should be noted that the [REDACTED] covered only a portion of the installation. Between [REDACTED] no new buildings were started. Night lights have been installed throughout the production area. Analysis of the facilities did not reveal a metals processing section.

25X1D

25X1D

5. Area 2, a Possible Munitions Research and Development Center, is located 3.5 nautical miles south southwest of Sian. This plant is completely secured by a solid wall and is only road served.

This installation can be divided into three functional sections:

1. Administration and research section,
2. Production section and
3. Testing section.

Within this plant there is an exceptionally large proportion of administration type buildings. One possible explanation is that they are being used for research and development. The exact type of explosives work being conducted here can not be determined at the present time.

25X1D

[REDACTED] no buildings under construction could be discerned. In [REDACTED] ever, the fenced area had been extended, eighteen new buildings had been built, two others were under construction, and two significant additions were completed. Currently this plant appears inactive.

6. Area 3, an Explosive Storage Area, is located 8.5 nautical miles north of Sian near an aircraft engine plant. This installation is rail and road served. Although it is not a production facility it has been included in this memorandum for completeness.

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7. Area 4, an Explosives Plant, is located 8.5 nautical miles west northwest of Sian. It is both rail and road served and is secured by a solid wall.

The secured area can be divided into two sections; inert storage section and a production section. The administrative facilities are just outside the secured area and the revetted explosive storage facility is located some distance to the south (see insert photo).

Although no acid section is discernable, the long processing buildings at this plant are similar to those at installation No. 1 of this memorandum. The large rail-served warehouses for inert storage are typical of those used to store cellulose (cotton linters or wood cellulose). If this was one of the raw materials and nitric acid were shipped in then the explosive produced could be nitrocellulose. This plant appears to be inactive at the time of the latest photo coverage.

25X1D  
25X1D

the plant appeared to be in a stage of major construction, which apparently was completed. The early coverage revealed 10 buildings under construction. Nine of these were finished along with three other new buildings and one significant addition.

25X1D

25X1D  
25X1D

Additional revetments and more landscaping is also observed. A large area on the northern side of the installation, formerly thought to be a processing facility has been almost removed. This area is now annotated as a possible construction facility.

25X1D

25X1B

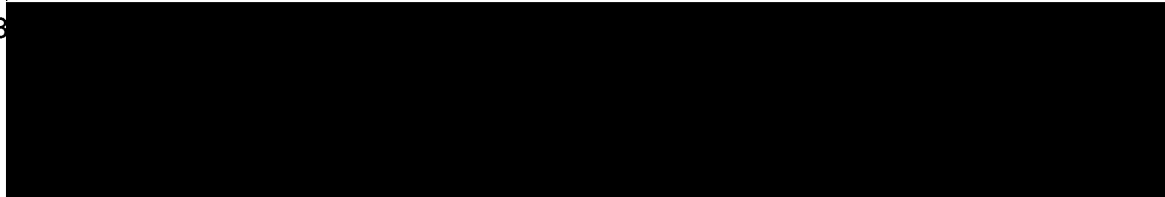
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25X1B

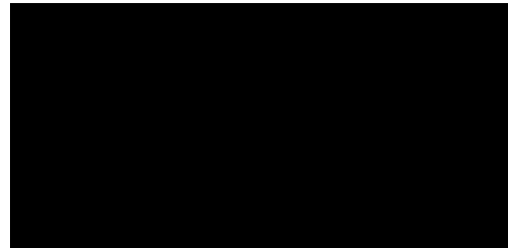


25X1A

25X1A

9. The photo analysts on this project were [redacted] and [redacted], who may be contacted on extension 2547 should you have further questions regarding this project. This memorandum and enclosures completes the reference requirement.

25X1A



Enclosures:

10 Annotated Photo Enlargements  
1 Annotated Map  
(CIA/PID/IB-P-735 through 745/63)

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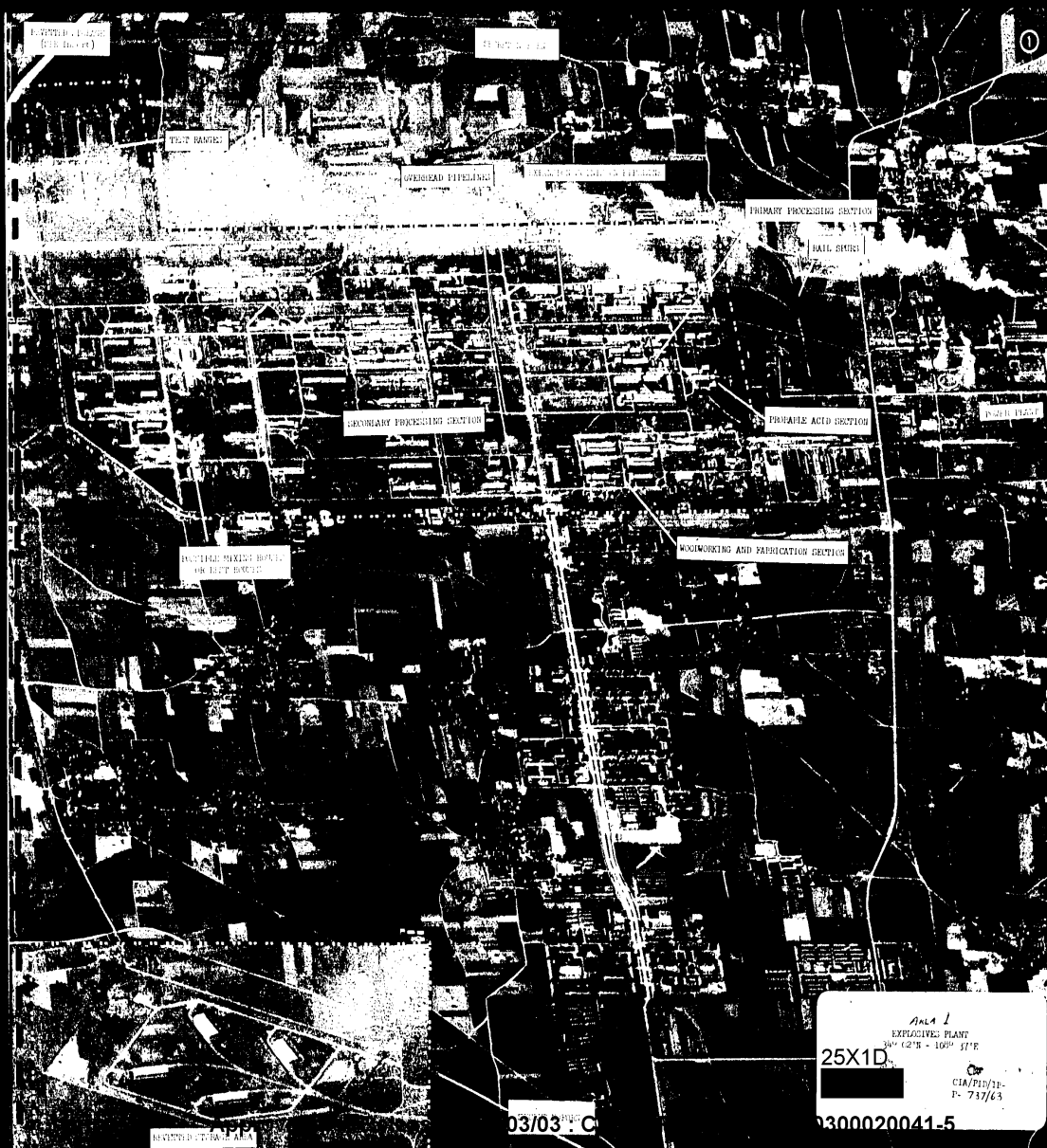


25X1D

AREA 1  
EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
30° 12' N - 100° 37' E

CIA/DP/DP  
P. 736/63

SECRET 5-10-63



Area 1  
EXPLOSIVES PLANT  
300' x 100' - 100' x 100'  
25X1D  
CIA/PLI/IN  
P- 737/69  
0300020041-5

03/03 - C





03: CIA

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25X1D  
CIA/PID/11-  
D-738/43

AC-A-2  
THOMAS MONITORING RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
36° 12'N - 100° 55'E

THOMAS MONITORING

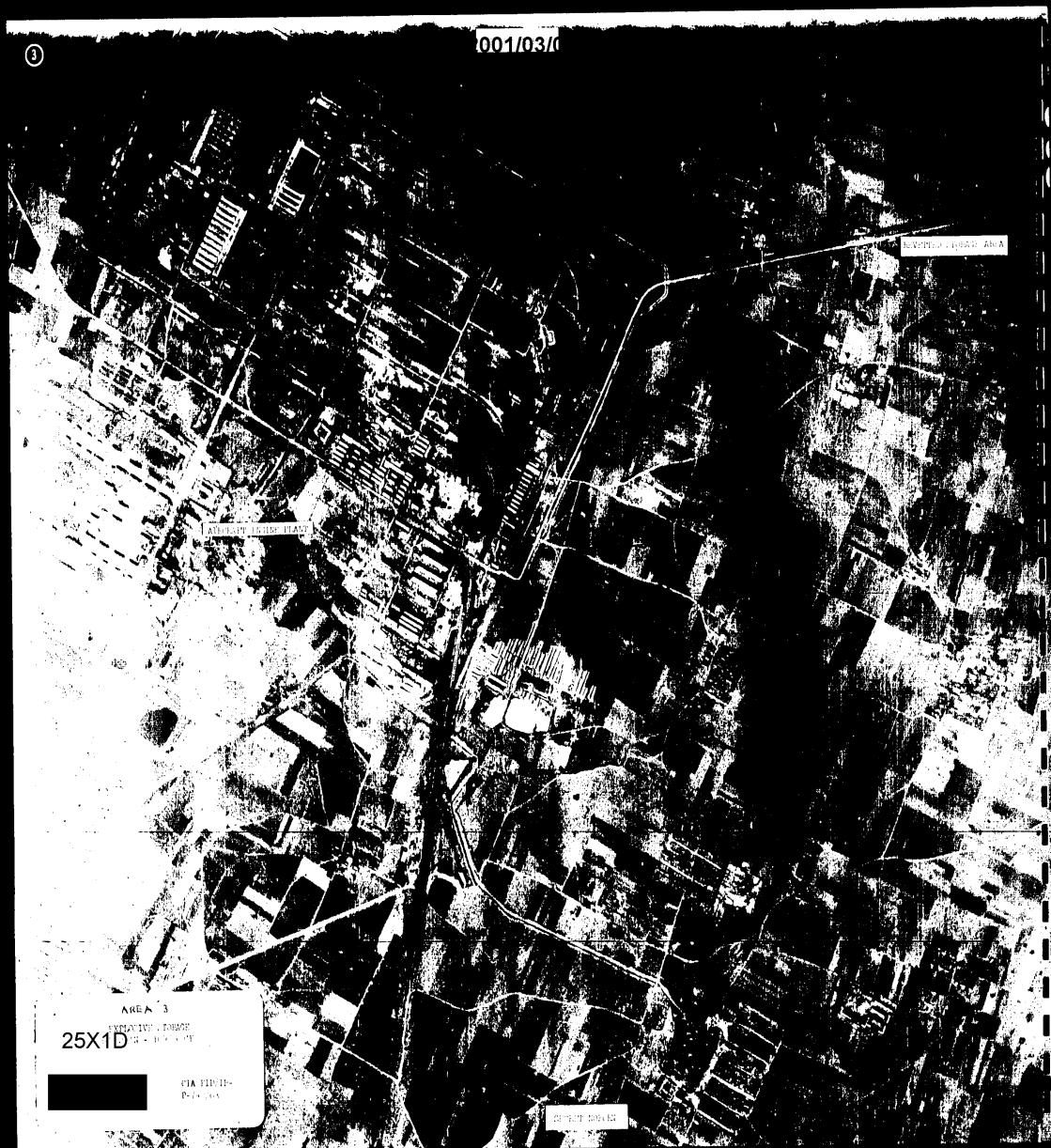


25X1D  
CIA/PRI/18-1-73/63

1/03/03:

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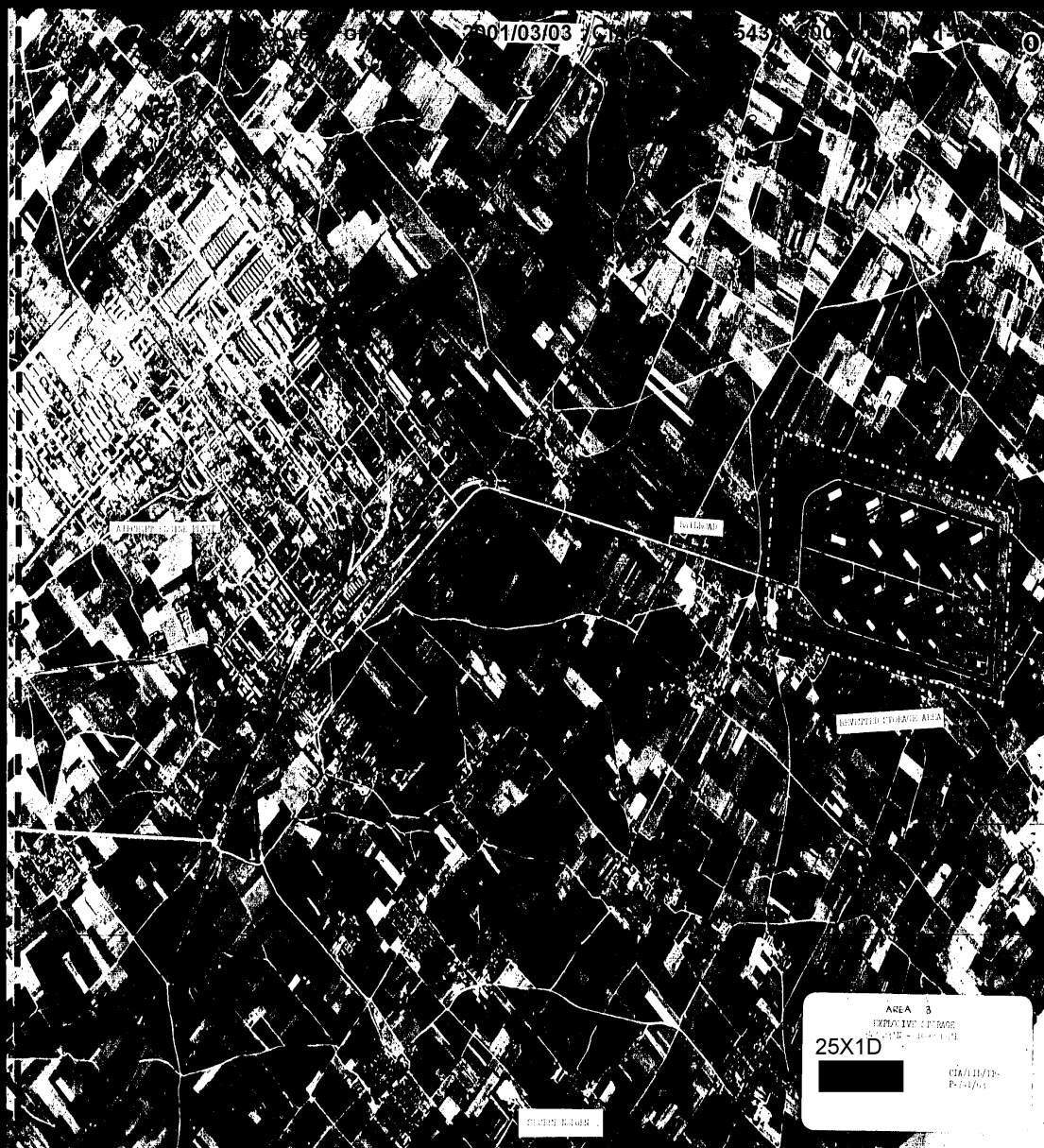
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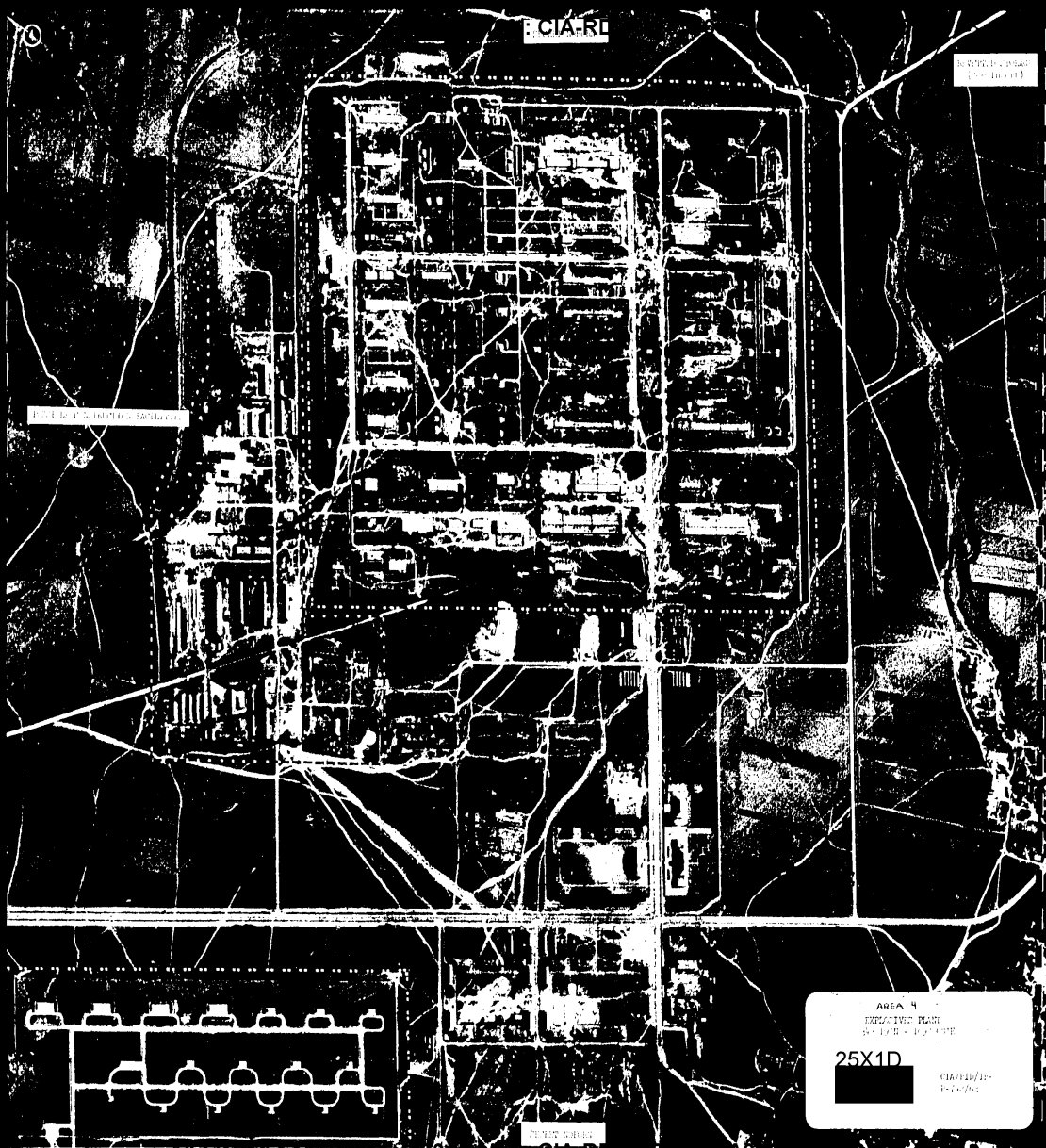


AREA 3  
25X1D

VIA AIR-POST  
ALBANY, N.Y. AREA

ALBANY, N.Y. AREA





CIA-RI

AREA 4

AREA 4

AREA 4  
EXCLUSIVE PLAN  
25X1D  
CIA/ID/11  
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25X1B

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